

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2004.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of a telephone interview with the Examiner on May 28, 2004, regarding an apparent typographical error in the Office Action mailed May 3, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner confirmed that paragraph 3, on page 3 of the Office Action, should have been omitted. The original rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1-14, 16, 17 and 19-22 was overcome by the Response filed on February 10, 2004, and these claims have now been allowed.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2004, Claims 1-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Caldwell (U.S. Patent No. 4,626,068). Claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-14, 16, 17, and 19-20 were allowed.

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendments

Claim 21 has been canceled. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 21

Claim 21 has been canceled, rendering moot the rejection of this claim. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any canceled or originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

IV. Additional Amendments

Claim 22

Claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.


V. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in expediting the issuance of a patent, and before an advisory action is issued in order to avoid any unnecessary filing of an appeal.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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